



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL 2011 FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY

Regional Allocation 2011: \$731,985

Carry Forward from 2010: \$78,447

Funding Available for Allocation in 2011: \$810,432

Prioritized Needs	Goal Area	Proposed Strategies	Portion of Regional Allocation	Recommendation to the Board
Limited access to quality early care and education.	Quality, Access & Affordability	Strategy 1 Quality First	\$86,670	Approved 12/09
Limited access to quality early care and education.	Quality, Access & Affordability	Strategy 2 Access & Affordability	\$94,000	Recommend Approval 5/17/09
Limited access to parenting information or resources to support children's healthy growth and development.	Family Support/Early Literacy	Strategy 5 Early Childhood Literacy Project	\$110,000	Approved 12/09
Limited access to health professionals with specialized knowledge of children birth through age five.	Health	Strategy 7 Therapist Incentive	\$75,000	Approved 12/09
Families are at a higher risk for abuse and/or neglect due to the economic and employment recession. Limited access to parenting information or resources to support children's healthy growth and development.	Family Support/Early Literacy	Strategy 8 Home Visitation	\$300,000	Approved 12/09
Limited access to parenting information or resources to support children's healthy growth and development.	Family Support/Early Literacy	Strategy 9 Food Assistance & Nutrition	\$10,000	Approved 12/09
Limited access to Oral Health Professionals and Services available to children birth through age five.	Health	Strategy 10 Oral Health	\$130,000	Approved 4/27/09 for Board approval
		Subtotal of Expenditures	\$805,670	
		Fund Balance	\$4,762	
		Grand Total	\$810,432	

Financial Summary 2010-2012

Revenue	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012 ESTIMATED	Total
FTF Total	\$710,381	\$731,985	\$731,985	\$2,174,351
Fund Balance (carry forward)	N/A	\$78,447	\$4,762	
Total Available	\$710,381	\$810,432	\$736,747	
Strategies	SFY 2010 OBLIGATED	SFY 2011 PROPOSED	SFY 2012 ESTIMATED	Total
1 Quality First	\$86,670	\$86,670	\$86,670	\$260,010
Affordability	\$80,000	\$94,000	\$20,000	\$194,000
Immunizations	removed	removed	removed	\$0
Parent Kits	\$833	completed	completed	\$833
hood Literacy	\$100,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$320,000
Incentive	removed	removed	removed	\$0
Incentive	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$262,500
Visitation	\$152,249	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$752,249
Assistance &	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Communicatio	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
10. Oral Health	\$0	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$260,000
Emergency	\$3,280	\$0	\$0	\$3,280
Emergency	\$39,402	\$0	\$0	\$39,402
Needs and	\$4,500	\$0	\$4,500	\$9,000
Subtotal	\$631,934	\$805,670	\$698,670	\$2,136,274
Fund Balance	\$78,447	\$4,762	\$38,077	
Total	\$710,381	\$810,432	\$736,747	



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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May 4, 2010

Chairman Steven Lynn and Members of the First Things First Board
First Things First
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board:

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council is pleased to present to the First Things First Board its Access and Affordability Strategy for the SFY2011 Regional Funding Plan. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council is respectfully requesting the Board to approve this strategy and implementation to begin in Fiscal Year 2011.

Prior to the Board approving the emergency scholarships in February 2009, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council had included as a strategy for its State Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Plan, a scholarship strategy in the amount of \$80,000. The Regional Council combined the emergency scholarships funding with the \$80,000 for a total of \$193,402. Information from Valley of the Sun United Way shows that we may have up to \$74,000 in unspent funds for this strategy. The Regional Council wishes to continue the scholarship strategy in State Fiscal Year 2011 and requests the Board's approval for up to \$94,000 for this strategy to be implemented in 2011.

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has learned that this support is extremely important in the region. Child care scholarships help support families whose incomes have been lost or decreased as a result of the state's economic crisis, while at the same time providing young children with a consistent and nurturing child care setting, which positively impacts school readiness skills. Using available information and data, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council carefully considered the use of regional funding for a partial scholarship strategy and approved up to \$94,000 in State Fiscal Year 2011 for approximately 18, one-year partial scholarships to families whose incomes are under 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Child care providers receiving regional scholarships will demonstrate a commitment to quality by meeting the following criteria:

- Program provides early care and education services to children birth through age 5, and
- Program is regulated and in good standing with appropriate certifying, licensing or regulatory authority, and
- Program demonstrates a commitment to quality by one of the following:
 1. Is enrolled as a Quality First participant, actively working towards quality improvement, or
 2. Is accredited by one of the National Accreditations³ recognized also by ADE and DES, or
 3. Has applied for Quality First (Improvement or rating, when available) and does not decline an opportunity to participate.

On behalf of the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council, please accept our appreciation for your support of all children in the Graham/Greenlee Region. We await your response in consideration of this proposed strategy.

Sincerely,

Laurie Smith, Chair
Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

Strategy Name: Child Care Scholarships (Partial Scholarship)

Strategy Description:

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has identified that the current economic downturn has had a negative effect on the general stability of families and their ability to support the cost of stable, quality, and consistent care and education for their children. Furthermore, the resulting impact on the providers threatens the overall viability of the early care and education system in the region. This is of major concern to the work of the Regional Council and the general well being of young children of the region.

In order to address these needs and concerns, the Regional Council will utilize child care partial scholarships (70% of the 75th percentile of the market rate survey) to increase access to consistent, quality, and affordable child care for eligible families in the region.

Many children and families living in the region are experiencing extreme financial hardship that places paying for quality early care and education programs out of their reach. These circumstances have created barriers for young children to gain access to high quality care and education, which is essential for school readiness.

It is estimated that in Arizona, fifty-three percent of families with children under the age of 18 live at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).¹ Providing economic support for families with children birth through age five by reducing the cost barrier to continuous, affordable, safe care is the intent of this regional strategy for families in the Graham/Greenlee Region.

Partial scholarships support continuity of care to children so that previously formed supportive relationships with care providers can remain in place. Research shows that children thrive in the care of familiar care providers who, along with their parents and family, play a significant role in their lives and on whom they count on for consistency, feelings of security, belonging and love. Continuity of care is particularly important for children birth through age five as they are in the developmental stages of building basic trust and a sense of self. Disruptions in care, particularly those that are abrupt and stem from changes in child care settings, can be minimized with the use of partial scholarships.

The high cost of early care and education is one of the most difficult obstacles to obtaining and maintaining employment for many low-income or single-parent families. Without access to quality care, families may be forced to decide whether to quit their jobs, withdraw from college or training opportunities, or leave children in care that is not their primary choice. Partial scholarships can support families who are employed, seeking employment or who are improving their skills by participating in training or education to better compete in the market place and who wish to give their children an educational boost. The use of child care partial scholarships is intended to provide infrastructure support throughout the region so that working families can maintain their own infrastructure by continuing to work, and meet the needs of their children. Scholarships will further help to stabilize the existing child care infrastructure within the region.

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council will implement the use of scholarships children whose family income is under 200 percent of the federal poverty level, with priority given as listed below. Partial scholarships will be limited to two (2) children per family. Child care providers receiving regional scholarships may be either center based or home based, and must demonstrate a commitment to quality by meeting the following criteria:

- Program provides early care and education services to children birth through age 5, and
- Program is regulated and in good standing with appropriate certifying, licensing or regulatory authority, and
- Program demonstrates a commitment to quality by one of the following:
 1. Is enrolled as a Quality First participant, actively working towards quality improvement, or
 2. Is accredited by one of the National Accreditations³ recognized also by ADE and DES, or
 3. Has applied for Quality First (improvement or rating, when available) and does not decline an opportunity to participate.

Utilization of regionally funded partial scholarships will provide young children with access to full-time child care for a one-year period, and will provide stability and continuity of care to help children remain in stable, familiar learning environments, while their parents are able to continue to find work, continue working or improve their skills to better compete in the job market through training and educational opportunities.

¹. U.S. Census 2007

Lead Goal: FTF will increase availability and affordability of early care and education settings.

Goal: FTF will improve access to quality early care and education programs and settings.

Key Measures:

- Current cost of early care and education for families as a proportion of the median income for a family of four
- Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in regulated early care and education programs as a proportion of total population birth to age five

Target Population:

- Families of children zero through age five (who are not in kindergarten) and reside in Graham/Greenlee Counties who exhibit an economic difficulty in keeping their child in their current early care and education placement or difficulty accessing consistent care

Priority will be given to families who may experience one or more of the following barriers (but is not be limited to):

- Children from families at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level
- Infant and toddler care
- Teen parents
- Single parents
- Parents working, underemployed, currently looking for employment, or currently attending school or receiving job training

	SFY 2011	SFY 2012	SFY 2013
	July 1, 2010 –June 30, 2011	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
Proposed Service Numbers	Approx 18-20, 1-year scholarships	TBD	TBD

Performance Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children receiving scholarships/proposed service number • Cost to parents/proposed target number • Number of parents reporting satisfaction (minimum questions provided by FTF staff)/strategic target number 	
SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy	
Allocation for proposed strategy	Up to \$ 94,000
Budget Justification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Estimated Administrative Costs: \$4,978 (5.24%) – Estimated Child Care Scholarships: \$90,022 – Scholarships to be paid at 70% of the 75th percentile of the market rate survey. (With Parent co-pay, providers are not to collect payments in excess of usual and customary costs.) – Approximately 18-20, 12 month scholarships 	